Prayers for the Dying

For a Departing Soul

When a sick person is known to be dying, relatives and friends should gather around the sick bed in the home or in hospital, and say the following prayers. If a priest is present he will lead the prayers, if not, a relative or friend should do this. Before beginning the prayers the dying person, room and others present are sprinkled with holy water and a crucifix placed in the hands of the person dying. (See image on back.)

The Litany for the Dying

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary,	Pray for him
All ye holy Angels and Archangels,	Pray for him
Holy Abel,	Pray for him
All ye Choirs of the Just,	Pray for him
Holy Abraham,	Pray for him
St. John the Baptist,	Pray for him
St. Joseph,	Pray for him
All ye holy Patriarchs and Prophets,	Pray for him
St. Peter,	Pray for him

St. Paul, Pray for him
St. Andrew, Pray for him
St. John, Pray for him
All ye holy Apostles and Evangelists, Pray for him
All ye holy Disciples of the Lord, Pray for him
All ye holy Innocents, Pray for him
St. Stephen, Pray for him
St. Lawrence, Pray for him
All ye holy Martyrs, Pray for him
St. Sylvester, Pray for him
St. Gregory, Pray for him
St. Augustine, Pray for him
All ye holy Bishops and Confessors, Pray for him
St. Benedict, Pray for him
St. Francis, Pray for him
St. Camillus, Pray for him
St. John of God, Pray for him
All ye holy Monks and Hermits, Pray for him
St. Mary Magdalene, Pray for him
St. Lucy, Pray for him
All ye holy Virgins and Widows, Pray for him
All ye holy Saints of God,
Make intercession for him.
Be merciful, Spare him, O Lord
Be merciful, O Lord, deliver him

Be merciful, O Lord, deliver him
From Thy wrath, O Lord, deliver him
From the peril of death, O Lord, deliver him
From an evil death, O Lord, deliver him
From the pains of hell, O Lord, deliver him
From all evil, O Lord, deliver him
From the power of the devil, O Lord, deliver him
Through Thy birth, O Lord, deliver him
Through Thy cross and passion,
O Lord, deliver him
Through Thy death and burial, O Lord, deliver him
Through Thy glorious resurrection,
O Lord, deliver him
Through Thine admirable ascension,
O Lord, deliver him
Through the grace of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter,
O Lord, deliver him
In the day of judgment, O Lord, deliver him
We sinners,
Beseech Thee, hear us.
That You spare him,
We beseech Thee, hear us.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Go forth, O Christian soul, from this world, in the name of God the Father Almighty, who created thee; in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who suffered for thee; in the name of the Holy Ghost, who was poured forth upon thee; in the name of the glorious and ever blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God; in the name of St. Joseph, chaste Spouse of the same Virgin; in the name of the Angels and Archangels; in the name of the Thrones and Dominations; in the name of the Principalities and Powers; in the name of the heavenly Forces, Cherubim and Seraphim; in the name of the Patriarchs and Prophets; in the name of the holy Apostles and Evangelists; in the name of the holy Martyrs and Confessors; in the name of the holy Monks and Hermits; in the name of the holy Virgins and of all the Saints of God: may thy place be this day in peace, and thine abode in holy Sion. Through the same Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

O merciful God, O gracious God, O God, who according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blottest out the sins of the penitent, and graciously remittest the guilt of past offenses; look favorably upon this Thy servant N., and in Thy Mercy hear him (her) as he (she) craves, with heartfelt confession, the remission

of all his (her) sins. Renew within him (her), O most loving Father, whatsoever hath been corrupted through human frailty, or violated through the deceit of the devil; and associate him (her) as a member redeemed to the unity of the body of Thy Church. Have pity, Lord, on his (her) groanings; have pity on his (her) tears; and admit him (her), who has no hope save in Thy mercy, to the sacrament of Thy reconciliation. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

I commend thee to Almighty God, dearly beloved brother (sister), and commit thee to Him whose creature thou art; that, when thou shalt have paid the debt of humanity by passing through death, thou mayest return to thy Maker, who formed thee from the dust of the earth. When, therefore, thy soul goeth forth from thy body, may the glorious company of Angels meet thee; may the council of the Apostles who shall judge the world greet thee; may the triumphant army of white-robed Martyrs come out to welcome thee; may the band of shining Confessors, crowned with lilies, encircle thee; may the choir of joyous Virgins receive thee; and unto the bosom of blessed rest may the embrace of the Patriarchs clasp thee; may St. Joseph, most consoling Patron of the dying, lift thee up in holy

hope; may Mary, the holy Mother of God, mercifully turn her eyes upon thee, and may He award thee a place among those who stand before Him forever. Mayest thou never know aught of the terror of darkness, the gnashing of teeth in the flames, the agonies of torment. May Satan most foul, with his wicked crew, give way before thee; may he tremble at thy coming with the Angels that attend thee, and flee away into the vast chaos of eternal night. Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered; and let them that hate Him flee before His Face. As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish away; as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God; and let the just feast and rejoice before God. May, then, all the legions of Hell be confounded and put to shame, nor may the ministers of Satan dare to hinder thy way. May Christ, Who was crucified for thee, deliver thee from torment. May Christ, who vouchsafed to die for thee, deliver thee from everlasting death. May Christ, the Son of the living God, place thee within the green pastures of His Paradise, and may He, the true Shepherd, acknowledge thee as one of His sheep. May He absolve thee from all thy sins, and set thee at His right hand in the portion of His elect. Mayest thou behold thy Redeemer face to face; and standing ever before Him, gaze with

blessed eyes on the Truth made manifest. And set thus among the choirs of the Blessed, mayest thou enjoy the sweetness of divine contemplation for ever more.

R. Amen.

Receive, O Lord, Thy servant into the place of salvation, which he (she) hopes for from Thy mercy.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant from all danger of Hell, and from the bonds of its punishments, and from all tribulations.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Henoch and Elias from the common death of the world.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Noah from the flood.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as thou didst deliver Abraham from Ur of the Chaldeans.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou

didst deliver Job from his sufferings.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Isaac from being sacrificed by the hand of his father Abraham.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Lot from Sodom and from the flame of fire.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Moses from the hands of the Pharaoh, King of the Egyptians.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Daniel from the lions' den.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver the Three Children from the burning fiery furnace, and from the hand of a wicked king.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou

didst deliver Susanna from a false accusation.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver David from the hand of King Saul and from the hand of Goliath.

R. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou didst deliver Peter and Paul out of prison.

R. Amen.

And as Thou didst deliver Thy most blessed Virgin and Martyr, Thecla, from three most cruel torments, so vouchsafe to deliver the soul of this Thy servant, and make it to rejoice with Thee in the bliss of Heaven.

R. Amen.

We commend unto Thee, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, N., and we beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, that Thou wouldst not refuse to place in the bosom of Thy Patriarchs a soul for whose sake Thou didst mercifully come down upon earth. Acknowledge, O Lord, Thy creature, made not by strange gods, but by Thee, the only living and true God: for there is no other God beside Thee, and none that doeth according to Thy works. Make glad his (her)

soul, O Lord, with Thy presence, and remember not his (her) old sins and excesses which wrath or heat of evil desire may have aroused. For though he (she) has sinned, he (she) has not denied the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost; but has believed, and has had a zeal for God, and has faithfully worshiped God, the Creator of all things.

Remember not, O Lord, we beseech Thee, the sins of his (her) youth nor his (her) ignorances; but, according to Thy great mercy, be mindful of him (her) in the brightness of Thy glory. May the heavens be opened to him (her), may the Angels rejoice with him (her). Into Thy kingdom, O Lord, receive Thy servant. May St. Michael, Archangel of God, Prince of the heavenly host, receive him (her). May the holy Angels of God come forth to meet him (her), and lead him (her) into the heavenly city, Jerusalem. May blessed Peter the Apostle, to whom were given by God the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, receive him (her). May St. Paul the apostle, who was counted worthy to be a vessel of election, assist him (her). May St. John, the chosen Apostle of God, to whom were revealed the secrets of Heaven, intercede for him (her). May all the holy Apostles, to whom the Lord gave the power of binding and loosing, pray for him (her). May all the saints and

elect of God, who, in this world suffered torments for the name of Christ, intercede for him (her): that, being loosed from the bonds of the flesh, he (she) may come to the glory of heavenly kingdom, through the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who with the Father, and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, world without end.

R. Amen.

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary

May the most clement Virgin Mary, Mother of God, loving consoler of the afflicted, commend to her Divine Son the soul of this her servant N., so that through her maternal intercession our dying brother (sister) may be freed from the terrors of death and in her company joyfully enter the desired heavenly home.

R. Amen

Prayer to St. Joseph

We fly to thee, St. Joseph, Patron of the dying, and we earnestly commend to thee, whom Jesus and Mary assisted at thy happy death by this twofold pledge most dear, the soul of this thy servant N., now in his (her) last agony, so that under thy protection he (she) may be freed from the snares of the devil and from everlasting death, thus reaching the eternal joys of Heaven.

Through the same Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

The Last Agony

When the soul is about to depart from the body, then those gathered around the bedside, should, more than ever, pray earnestly for the dying person. The Holy Name of Jesus should be constantly invoked, and such ejaculations as the following, repeated in the dying person's ear:

Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

O Lord Jesus Christ, receive my spirit.

Holy Mary, pray for me.

O Mary, mother of grace, mother of mercy, do thou protect me from the enemy, and receive me at the hour of death.

St. Joseph, pray for me.

St. Joseph, in company with the blessed Virgin thy Spouse, open to me the bosom of divine mercy.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, to you I commend my heart and my soul.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, let me depart and rest with you in peace.

When the soul has departed, the following prayers may be said:

Come to his (her) assistance, ye Saints of God, come forth to meet him (her), ye Angels of the Lord: Receiving his (her) soul: Offering it in the sight of the Most High.

V. May Christ receive thee, who hath called thee, and may the Angels bear thee into Abrahams' bosom.

R. Receiving his (her) soul: Offering it in the sight of the Most High.

V. Eternal rest rant unto him (her), O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him (her).

R. Offering it in the sight of the most High.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

Our Father (silently).

V. And lead us not into temptation.

R. But deliver us from evil.

V. Eternal rest grant unto him (her), O Lord.

R. And let perpetual light shine upon him (her).

V. From the gate of hell.

R. Deliver his (her) soul, O Lord.

V. May he (she) rest in peace.

R. Amen.

V. O Lord hear my prayer

R. And let my cry come unto thee.

V. The Lord be with you.

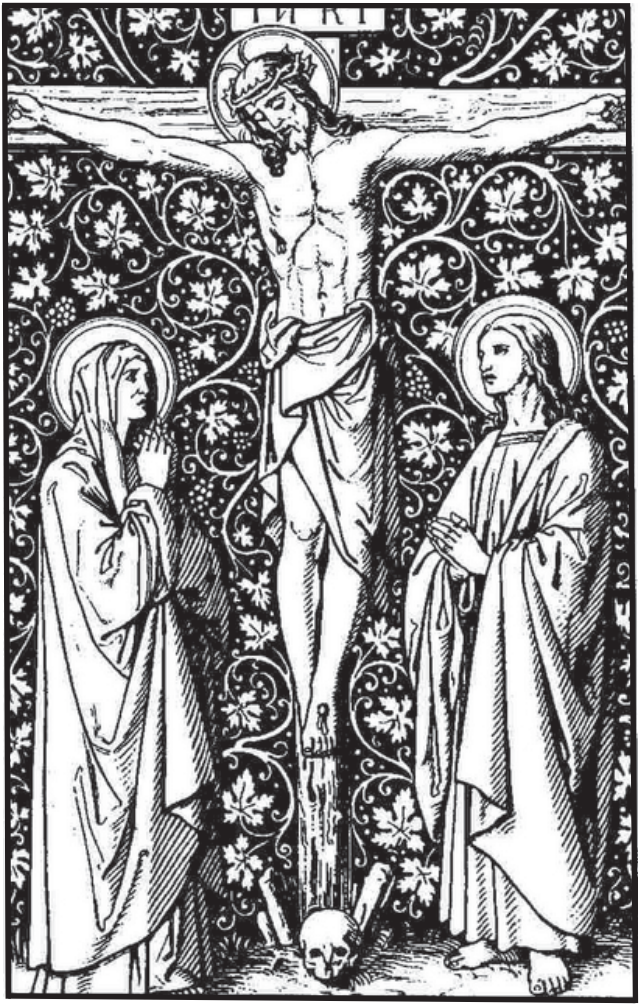
R. And with thy spirit.

Let us Pray.

To Thee, O Lord, do we commend the soul of Thy servant N., that being dead to the world he (she) may live unto Thee; and whatsoever sins he (she) has committed through the frailty of his (her) mortal nature, do Thou, by the pardon of Thy most merciful love, wash away.

R. Amen.

The body should then be decently laid out, with lighted candles near. A small crucifix should be placed upon the breast between the hands, or else let the hands themselves be folded one upon another, in the form of a cross. The body is sprinkled with holy water, and from then until the time of burial, all present should pray for the repose of the departed soul.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